# Willowherbs in Edinburgh / Lothians

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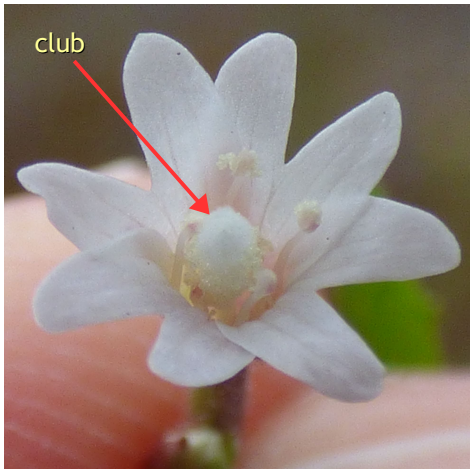
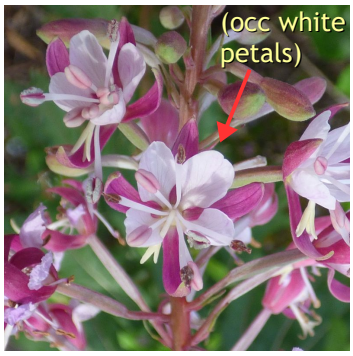
**Identification** - When you see a willowherb, note the *shape of the stigma* at the centre of the flower, which will lead you to a group of candidates, as follows -

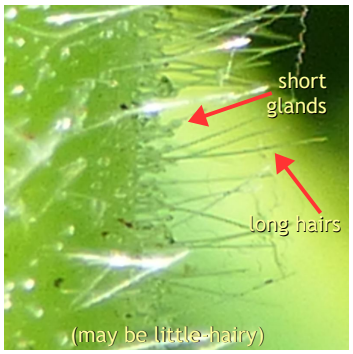
| Cross | Obscure Cross | Club |
|---|---|---|
| Large Flowers & Height<br>**Rosebay** (dense flower spike, sepals visible between petals)<br>**Great** (large deep pink flower, hooked leaf teeth, usu v hairy)<br><br>Medium Flowers & Height<br>**Hoary** (hairy all parts, small light flower, unhooked leaf teeth)<br>**Broad-Leaved** (unhairy leaves, slight leaf stems, short-hairy stem)<br>*Not here -*<br>**Spear-Leaved** – leaves long-stalked (4-10mm) | **Rosebay** (dense flower spike, sepals visible between petals)<br>**Hoary** (see 'Cross' shape, left)<br>**Hybrid** (many types, not described here, but petals may be mixed or blotchy colours) | Creeping<br>**New Zealand** (+ Bronzy & Irish Rockery mentioned with it)<br><br>Upright (Medium Flowers)<br>**Pale** (leaf stalks long)<br>**Marsh** (very narrow leaves)<br>**American** (pale flowers, glandy stem)<br>**Short-Fruited** (deeper pink flowers, unglandy stem, fruiting tubes 4-6 cm)<br>Square-Stalked (squared stems, fruiting tubes 7-10 cm)<br>Not here<br>**Chickweed & Alpine** – flower stalks bent to side |
| | |  |

# Large Flower & Height

**Rosebay Willowherb** – Widespread - Chamerion angustifolium - Map



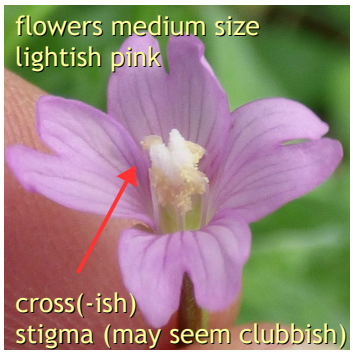

**Great Willowherb** – Widespread but occasional in the Pentlands - Epilobium hirsutum - Map



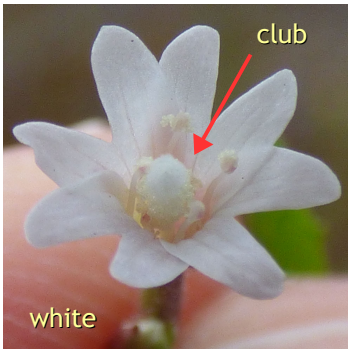
# Medium Flower & Height

## Hoary Willowherb –Scattered around - Epilobium parviflorum - Map

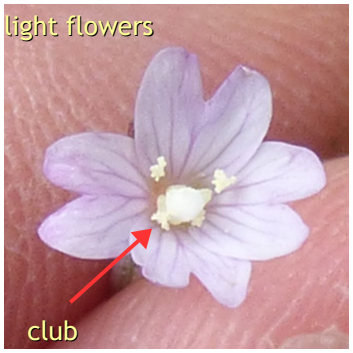
Cross stigma is often obscurely crossed or somewhat club-like

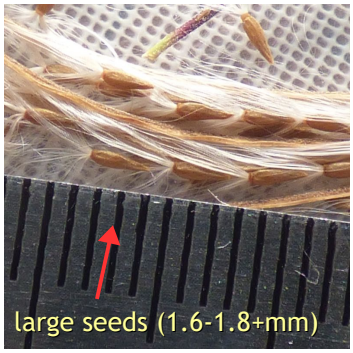


## Pale Willowherb – Occasionally met - Epilobium roseum - Map



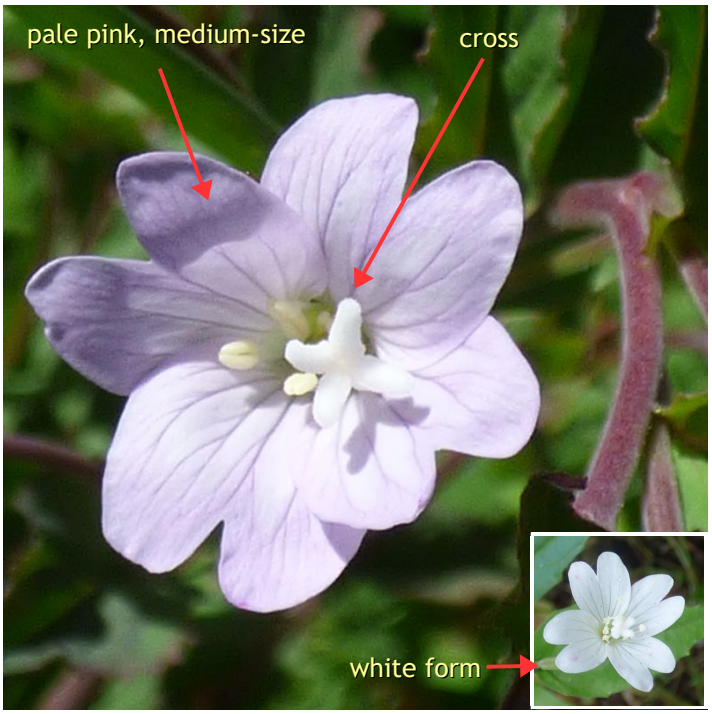
**Marsh Willowherb** – Common outside the city (wet places) - Epilobium palustre - Map

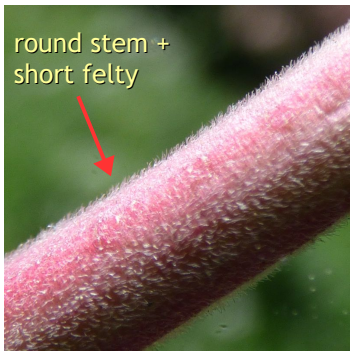


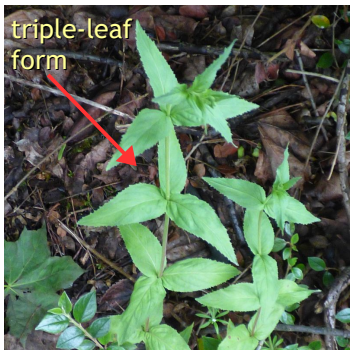



**Broad-Leaved Willowherb** – Widespread, but occasional in the Pentlands - Epilobium montanum - Map

Stem may have a few glandy hairs.

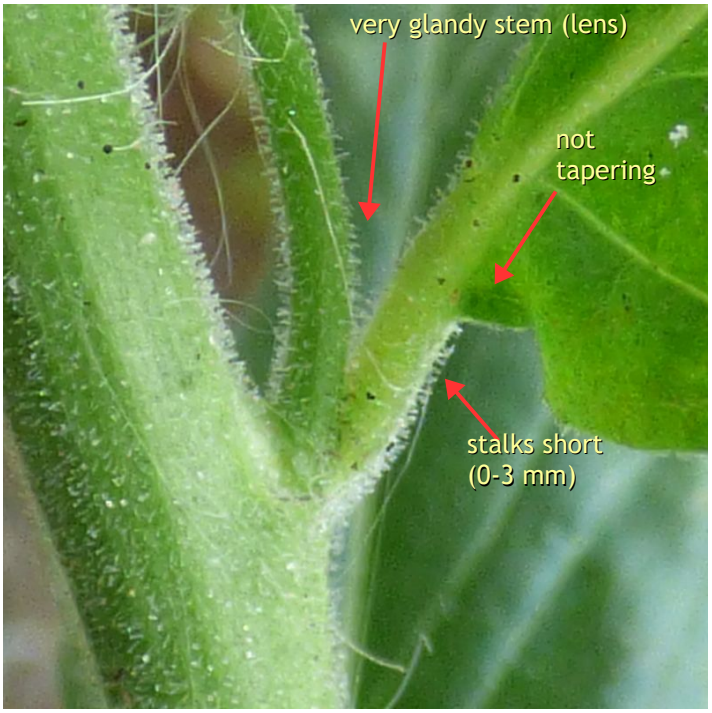






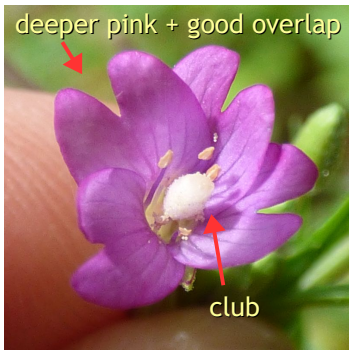
## American Willowherb – Widespread, but patchy in the Pentlands - Epilobium ciliatum - Map

Often intricately branched.



## Short-Fruited Willowherb – Common - Epilobium obscurum - Map

Fruiting tubes 4-6 cm (cf Square-Stalked 7-10 cm).



# Other ‘Mediums’ to be aware of

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Square-Stalked Willowherb** – rare (W of city) (Epilobium tetragonum) | Club stigma, stems very squared, hairs appressed and unglandy, fruiting tubes 7-10 cm (see Short-Fruited 4-6 cm).<br><br>( Photo naturespot.org.uk ) | |
| **Spear-Leaved Willowherb** – Not found here (Epilobium lanceolatum) | Cross stigma, leaves long-stalked (4-10mm) with tapered leaf base. Medium flower. | |
| **Chickweed Willowherb** – Not found but can be found in the Peebleshire hills and Fife (Epilobium alsinifolium). | Club stigma, leaves noticeably toothed, flower stalks bent to side/drooping; flowers 14-16mm (see next). | |
| **Alpine Willowherb** – Fife and Peebleshire hills (Epilobium anagallidifolium) | Club stigma, leaves with obscure distant teeth, flower stalks bent to side/drooping; flowers 7-10mm (see previous). | |

## Creeping

**New Zealand Willowherb** – Rare but commonish in some parts of the Pentlands - Epilobium brunnescens - Map

*Two rarities looking similar are shown after.*

**Rockery Willowherb** - Sharply toothed leaves. Very rare - Epilobium pedunculare - Map

( Photo parks.tas.gov.au )

**Bronzy Willowherb** - Prominent vein wrinkling of leaf upperside. Not in region, but very rare in Glasgow & Peebleshire hills - Epilobium komarovianum - Map

( Photo robsplants.com )

## Info

Updated : 2020-02-26 – please check you have the latest version!

Contact : David Merrick – facebook.com/meteorquake

Facebook Botany Group for Lothians : facebook.com/groups/lothiansbotany

All items in this Series : paintdrawer.co.uk/nature/edinburgh/downloads.htm